

Claims

[c1] What is claimed:

1. A computerized system that allows group travel coordinators to book a block of hotel rooms through the Internet, by gathering all necessary contacting information from all parties, making both buyer and seller agree through an electronic signature to a general terms and conditions, as well as uses the groups information to gather available room inventory from Internet hotel booking engines.
2. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of gathering the groups needs in a computer-readable form and depositing it in a computer database in which the groups needs can be accessible and analyzed by invited parties, as well as agreeing to the terms and conditions. This step will be referred to as the group posting.
3. The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 2 wherein said software interface for providing database records representing desired dates, destination, price per room per night, star rating, and number of rooms, as well as group coordinator contact information such as name, phone number and email address.
4. The method as set forth in claim 2 wherein said step

of providing database records to invited parties, such as hotels that fit the groups desired destination, price range and quality rating.

5. The method as set forth in claim 4 wherein said step of inviting hotels and other travel vendors to access and analyze the groups reservation postings based on information gathered about these parties through a two step process.

6. The method as set forth in claim 4 wherein said step of gathering preliminary hotel information, such as hotel name, hotel destination, managers name and hotel email or managers email. Based on this information a preliminary invitation is sent out to the party to register.

7. The method as set forth in claim 4 wherein said step of registering invited hotels and travel vendors by giving them directions to a computer-readable form and depositing and verifying their hotel and manager contact information into a hotel and travel vendor database.

During this step the invited parties must agree to the terms and conditions before they may be registered.

8. The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 7 wherein said software interface for providing database records of the hotels star rating, hotel location, hotel name, hotel Web site, managers name and title, hotel phone, fax and email, and number of rooms per night to be a group booking.

9. A method as set forth in claim 7 wherein registered hotels and travel vendors may access and analyze a group posting by searching the group posting database. The invitation notice is generated based on the hotel or travel vendors account settings established during registration.

10. A method as set forth in claim 8 wherein said registered parties may respond through a computer readable medium with all necessary information requested from group posting. This response is stored in a password protected database and can be accessed and analyzed by only the group travel coordinator. This response is known as a reservation bid. A posting may have an unlimited amount of bids on it.

11. A method as set forth in claim 2 wherein said software is used to read group information stored in database and search Internet hotel booking engines for room inventory that meets the group travel coordinators posting requests. These responses are known as automatic bids.

12. A bid acceptance system as set forth in claim 11 wherein said the group travel coordinators credit card will be charged for the total cost of the rooms when the group travel coordinator chooses an automatic bid.

13. A bid acceptance system as set forth in claim 10 wherein said group travel coordinator will be verified by

their credit card and transaction will then be confirmed directly with the hotel or travel vendor based on the information they submitted in their bidding.

14. A bid acceptance system as set forth in claim 13 wherein said travel coordinators contact and billing information is sent directly to the hotel manager that placed the accepted bid.

15. The bid acceptance system as set forth in claim 12 wherein said computer network server communicates with the Internet hotel booking engines computer network server to confirm the booking.

16. The system as set forth in claim 1–15 further comprising a restricted access administrator console communicative with all postings database, bids database, automatic bids database, accepted bids database, accepted automatic bids database, and access to maintain all potential new hotel and travel vendor accounts.